THE FOLLOWING ARE THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF ANNEXES TO THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT (ARTICLE 34):

Amended Sheets (Pages 24-26)

REPLACED BY ART 34 AMDT

Claims

1. A process for preparing at least one alkoxylate, which comprises bringing at least one alkylene oxide selected from the group consisting of ethylene oxide, propylene oxide, butylene oxide, pentylene oxide and decene oxide into contact with at least one starter compound in the presence of at least one double metal cyanide compound of the general formula I:

$$M^1_a[M^2(CN)_b(A)_c]_d \cdot fM^1_gX_n \cdot h(H_2O) \cdot eL \cdot kP \qquad (I),$$

where

- M^1 is at least one metal ion selected from the group consisting of Zn^{2+}, Fe^{2+}, Fe^{3+}, Co^{3+}, Ni^{2+}, Mn^{2+}, Co^{2+}, Sn^{2+}, Pb^{2+}, Mo^{4+}, Mo^{6+}, Al^{3+}, V^{4+}, V^{5+}, Sr^{2+}, W^{4+}, W^{6+}, Cr^{2+}, Cr^{3+}, Cd^{2+}, Hg^{2+}, Pd^{2+}, Pt^{2+}, V^{2+}, Mg^{2+}, Ca^{2+}, Ba^{2+}, Cu^{2+}, La^{3+}, Ce^{3+}, Ce^{4+}, Eu^{3+}, Ti^{3+}, Ti^{4+}, Ag^{+}, Rh^{2+}, Rh^{3+}, Ru^{2+}, Ru^{3+},

- M^2 is at least one metal ion selected from the group consisting of Fe^{2+}, Fe^{3+}, Co^{2+}, Co^{3+}, Mn^{2+}, Mn^{3+}, V^{4+}, V^{5+}, Cr^{2+}, Cr^{3+}, Rh^{3+}, Ru^{2+}, Ir^{3+},

- A and X are each, independently of one another, an anion selected from the group consisting of halide, hydroxide, sulfate, carbonate, cyanide, thiocyanate, isocyanate, cyanate, carboxylate, oxalate, nitrate, nitrosyl, hydrogensulfate, phosphate, dihydrogenphosphate, hydrogenphosphate and hydrogencarbonate,

- L is a water-miscible ligand selected from the group consisting of alcohols, aldehydes, ketones, ethers, polyethers, esters, polyesters, polycarbonate, ureas, amides, primary, secondary and tertiary amines, ligands having a pyridine nitrogen, nitriles, sulfides, phosphides, phosphites, phosphanes, phosphonates and phosphates,

- k is a fraction or integer greater than or equal to zero, and

- P is an organic additive,

- a, b, c, d, g and n are selected so that the compound (I) is electrically neutral, with c being able to be 0,

- e is the number of ligand molecules and is a fraction or integer greater than 0 or is 0,

- f and h are each, independently of one another, a fraction or integer greater than 0 or 0,

wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of from 130°C to 155°C.

2. The process according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the following properties is fulfilled:

(1) M^1 is selected from the group consisting of Zn^{2+}, Fe^{2+}, Fe^{3+}, Co^{3+}, Ni^{2+}, Mn^{2+}, Co^{2+},

(2) M^2 is selected from the group consisting of Fe^{2+}, Fe^{3+}, Co^{3+}.

3. The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein M^1 is Zn^{2+} and M^2 is Co^{3+}.

4. The process according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the at least one alkylene oxide is ethylene oxide or propylene oxide.

5. The process according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the starter compound is a monofunctional linear or branched alcohol having from 2 to 24 carbon atoms.

6. The process according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the starter compound is a Guerbet alcohol.

7. The process according to any of claims 1 to 6, wherein the starter compound is 2-propylheptanol or an isomer mixture thereof.

8. The process according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the sum of inert gas partial pressure and alkylene oxide partial pressure is from 1.5 bar to 6.0 bar during the induction phase.

9. An alkoxylate obtainable by a process according to any of claims 1 to 8.

10. The use of an alkoxylate according to claim 9 as emulsifier, foam regulator or as wetting agent for hard surfaces.